



Fig. 2. ARMS OF MERCHANT ADVENTURERS.

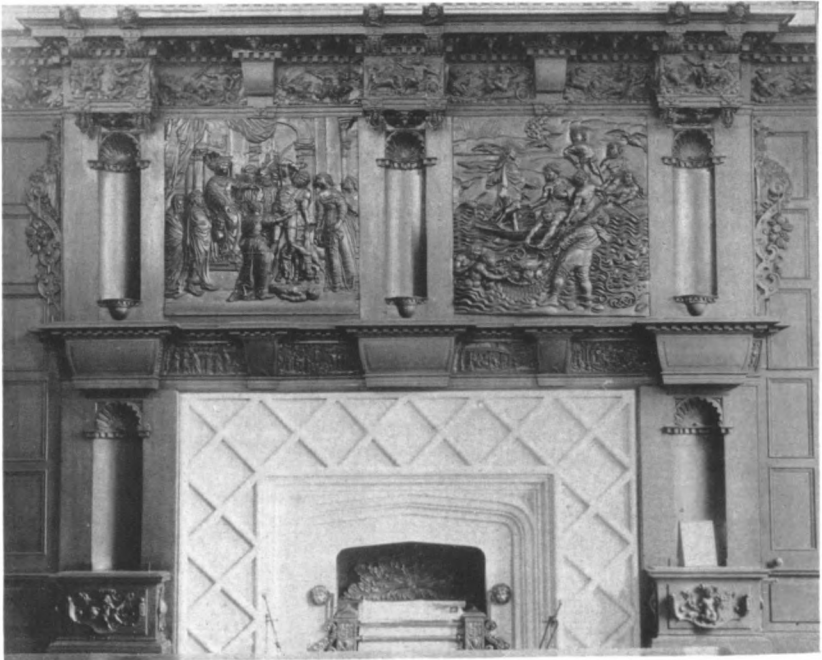


Fig. 1. FIREPLACE AND OVERMANTEL, MERCHANTS' COURT.

I.—THE MERCHANTS' COURT, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

By C. H. HUNTER BLAIR.

[Read on 25th October 1939.]

“ A MARCHANT was ther with a forkèd berd,
In mottéleye, and hye on horse he sat;
Upon his heed a Flaundryssh bevere hat;
His bootès claspèd faire and fetisly;
His resons he spak ful solempnely,
Sownyngé alway thencrees of his wyynyng.

For sothe he was a worthy man with-alle
But, sooth to seyn, I noot how men him calle.”

The object of this paper is to illustrate the carved and panelled decoration and to record by blazon and photographs the armorials and escucheons which adorn the stately room in which the Merchants hold their Court. Known now as the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, it opens out from the east end of Gildhall through a dignified moulded and panelled double doorway of oak. The history of the Merchants' Guild,¹ founded by charter of king John in 1216, from whom the Company of Merchant Adventurers, whose charter was granted in 1547 by Edward VI, claim direct succession, has been written and their records edited by the late J. R. Boyle and Dr. F. W. Dendy, in volumes 93 and 101 of the publications of the Surtees Society, and need not be repeated here. A short summary of the history of the hall itself is, however, desirable. The Merchants' Court was originally above part of St. Catherine's Hospital,

¹ This comprised the three companies of Boothmen or corn merchants, Drapers or woollen merchants and Mercers or silk merchants.

known as the *Maison Dieu*, founded by Roger Thornton upon the Sandhill in 1425, and as early as 1480 the merchants were there holding their court. Part of the site of the hospital was sold in 1624 by Sir Richard Lumley, to whom it had descended from the family of the founder, to the mayor and burgesses of the town in order that a new Gildhall might be built there. This was opened in 1658, and its present interior is mainly of that date. The eastern part of the hospital, however, remained standing until about 1823, when it also and the old Merchants' Court above it were pulled down. The present hall was built upon the same site as the old one, and its decorations were, at least partly, re-used by the architect John Dobson. It was indeed a condition that the panelling and other ornaments and furniture remain in the new as in the old hall, and it is probable that the old material was re-used so far as possible (plate 1). Our member, Mr. Robert Bertram, has made a close and detailed study of the room and its ornaments, and I am indebted to him for the following note upon them :

"The splendid carved oak overmantel, dated 1636 (frontispiece), and of Flemish workmanship, is original work and was removed in its entirety from the old hall. The frieze (plate 1) running around the panelling of the room and the cherubs' heads above it are of plaster work repeating the subjects which, carved in oak, are on the cornice of the overmantel (frontispiece, fig. 1). They were probably made from gelatine casts when the room was built about 1830.² Some of the panels are also later than the original ones of early seventeenth-century date, shewing that deficiencies had then been made up. The panelled and arched ceiling, in spite of the date 1620 upon it, and though it may be in some ways a copy of an earlier ceiling, yet bears all the marks of nineteenth-century work. It was probably designed by John Dobson the architect to agree, at least partially, with the general style of the room. The pendentive of Victorian style in the middle was meant to hold a gasolier and alone shows that the present ceiling could not be of the same design as the one in the old hall, nor would it be possible to remove a ceiling entire and set it up in a new place."

² On 28 Nov. 1831 it was ordered that the escucheons hung in the old hall be cleaned and put in the new one. (SS 93, p. 268.)

The oak panelling, now stained a dark brown, covers about three-quarters of the height of the walls; above it they are plastered and divided into oblong moulded panels upon eight of which armorial escucheons are now placed (plate II), and the arms of the company upon a ninth. On the north wall behind the governor's chair is an achievement of the arms of the Merchants' company carved in oak (frontispiece, fig. 2). This has recently been repaired and blazoned in its proper colours and the eight armorial escucheons have been cleaned and repainted by our member, Mr. L. C. Evetts of King's College, at the expense of Viscount Ridley, the present governor of the company. Lord Ridley has also caused the many coats of whitewash which disfigured the stone fireplace to be removed, and its fine grey sandstone is now in its original condition. He has also put in electric lighting; the room is now lighted by lamps placed behind the cornice and lit by reflection from the ceiling and upper part of the walls.

Metal plates with the arms of governors of the company blazoned in their proper colours and giving their names and dates of election are fixed to the upper row of the wall panels. They begin with Robert Bewick, 1628, on the south side of the west wall and continue to Viscount Ridley, the present governor, elected 1929. The later plates are placed upon the second row of panels. They are all of the same shape and style and it would seem probable that they were all made at the same time when the room was completed in 1830, those dating after then being added when required. (plate I.)

THE OVERMANTEL. (frontispiece, fig. 1.)

This, as said above, has the date 1636 carved upon it and it is probably of Flemish workmanship. The panel upon the left depicts, in vigorous style, the Judgment of Solomon. The two mothers wear the full skirts and tight-fitting embroidered bodices fashionable in the early seven-

teenth-century; their hair is also dressed in the style of that period. The details of king Solomon's robes and of his throne are carefully carved, as are the salades and glaives of the men at arms in the background. The right hand panel represents the miraculous draught of fishes. Our Lord is shown standing in the stern of the boat, nimbed with the sun's rays. The lusty figures of the apostles, the flying sea-gulls and the fish caught in the net are all carved with realistic vigour. On the plinth beneath these large carvings are four small oblong panels representing incidents in the life of Christ. They are, from left to right: Christ restoring his sight to the blind man; the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot at Gethsemane; Mary Magdalene washing the feet of Jesus, and Christ feeding the multitude with the miraculous loaves and fishes. The carvings upon the cornice, forsaking Biblical subjects, portray seven of the gods and goddesses of the Pantheon of pagan Rome. These, though classical in motive, are yet typically renaissance in style. Each deity rides in a chariot upon clouds and is accompanied by his or her appropriate emblem. It is indeed a strange mixture, but such blending of Christian and classical motives was typical of renaissance art. One remembers how the bishop wished his tomb in St. Praxed's church to be decorated—

“ The bas-relief in bronze ye promised me,
 Those pans and nymphs ye wot of, and perchance
 Some tripod, thyrsus, with a vase or so,
 The Saviour at his sermon on the mount,
 Saint Praxed in a glory, and one Pan
 Ready to twitch the nymph's last garment off,
 And Moses with the tables . . . ”

The deities represented are :

1. NEPTUNE holding trident (?), his chariot drawn by two dragons.
2. JUPITER, grasping a thunderbolt, in a chariot drawn by four eagles.

3. MARS, youthful figure in a chariot drawn by two eagles, an open helm upon his head and brandishing a scimitar in his right hand. A cock stands at his right side.
4. APOLLO, the sun above his forehead, his chariot drawn by two pegasi.
5. VENUS, with Cupid, drawn by two doves.
6. MARS in armour with spear and battle-axe, his chariot drawn by horses.
7. JUNO in chariot drawn by two peacocks.

Above, on the top of the cornice, are six cherubs with curled hair and wings folded around their heads. At each side of the overmantel is an eagle's head and wings below which bunches of grapes and pomegranates hang from scrolls. Beneath on the left, upon a cartouche, is a woman pouring water out of a pot with her right hand and holding a sea-shell in her left; on the right hand is a youth holding flowers in his right and a cornucopia with fruit in it in his left hand. This overmantel, though singular in its subject and in the vigour of its execution, is of a style prevalent in the large oak panelled rooms of the early seventeenth century. It is therefore perhaps desirable that a list of similar overmantels, known to have come from houses in the district, together with a note of their present locality, should be given here.

1. *Great Hall of the castle, Newcastle upon Tyne.* Supposed to represent the apotheosis of James I and said to have come from the Beehive inn, in the Side.
2. *Haughton castle.* The armorials of James I with a panel on each side, that on the right Cain slaying Abel, on the left David cutting off the head of Goliath. Four allegorical figures separate the panels. Said to have come from Derwentwater House, Newcastle upon Tyne. (*History of Northumberland* xv, Haughton castle section.)
3. *Haughton castle.* Scroll work divided into three

- panels by pillars with carved capitals. Also from Derwentwater House. (*Ibid.*)
4. Formerly at *Eastfield Hall*, Northumberland, removed thence to Georgian Galleries, London, for sale, present locality unknown, originally in Cosyn's house, Quayside. Three achievements of arms each in a separate panel divided from each other by pillars with carved capitals. (*Arch. Ael.*⁴ VIII, frontispiece and p. 104.)
 5. *Senate room, Durham castle*. The armorials of James I flanked by shields of bishop James, impaled, one with the shield of the cathedral church, the other with that of the see. (*Arch. Ael.*⁴ XII, frontispiece and p. 27.)
 6. *Chillingham castle*. Originally at each end of the long gallery: (1) Abraham about to sacrifice Isaac, the apostles Luke and John at the sides; (2) Susannah and the Elders, Matthew and Mark at the sides. These are carved in freestone but are of similar style to the oaken ones. (*History of Northumberland* XIV, p. 344.)
 7. *Trinity House*. Royal arms as borne by Charles I and II. (*Arch. Ael.*⁴ XI, plate XXXIII.)

ARMS OF THE GOVERNORS OF THE MERCHANTS' COMPANY.

(PLATE I.)

ROBERT BEWICK, Esq. 1628.

Silver on a fess indented of five fusils gules, between three bears' heads rased sable muzzled gules five molets silver.

Son of Andrew Bewick, merchant adventurer, and his wife Margaret, daughter of Cuthbert Hunter. He was baptized in St. Nicholas' church 18th Oct. 1561. He was a merchant adventurer and boothman, but the date of his admission is not recorded. He was sheriff of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1615 and mayor in 1628 and 1639. He purchased the estate of Close House in 1626, died 15 March 1641/42, buried in the Bewick porch, St. Nicholas', 17 March of the same year.

JNO CLAVERING, Esq. 1629.

Quarterly gold and gules a bend sable.

Eldest son of James Clavering and his wife Grace, daughter and coheirress of Roger Nicholson, merchant of Newcastle upon Tyne, and grandson of Robert Clavering of Callaly. Baptized 2nd Dec. 1591 and 23 years of age at the herald's visitation of 1615. Merchant adventurer and mercer, sheriff of Newcastle upon Tyne 1618, mayor in 1629. Buried in St. Nicholas' 6 May 1648. His wife was Anne, daughter of Robert Shafto, alderman of Newcastle. His son and heir, James of Axwell Park, Gateshead, was created a baronet 5 June 1661.

WM WARMOUTH, Esq. 1630.

Gold on a bend between two lions rampant-azure, three pierced molets gold.

Son of Robert Warmouth, merchant, and his wife Isabel, daughter of Nicholas Baxter. He married Judith, daughter of William Whittingham, dean of Durham. Sheriff of Newcastle upon Tyne 1598, mayor in the years 1603, 1614 and 1631. He died 22 July 1642 aged 83, and by his will left £100 to be lent for three years without interest to a young merchant.

SR ALEXR DAVISON, kt. 9th Oct. 1640.

Gold a fess wavy between six cinquefoils gules.

Son of Roger Davison of Newcastle upon Tyne, tanner, indentured 24 June 1585 to Ralph Cock, whose daughter Anne he married at St. Nicholas' 28 August 1597. He was sheriff of the town 1611 and mayor in the years 1626 and 1638. He purchased the estate of Blakiston in Stockton ward of county Durham, was knighted at York 1 April 1639; he was killed at the siege of Newcastle by the Scots, whilst defending it in arms, Oct. 1644, aged 79 years.

LEONARD CARR, Esq. 9th Oct. 1641.

Silver on a bend sable between three Cornish choughs three leopards' heads rased gold.

Son of William Carr of Langcliffe in Craven, yeoman, indentured to George Dent, boothman, 1 Aug. 1597, alderman of the town and sheriff in 1635. On 28 Sept. 1657 he was removed from his office of alderman by order of the Protector and Privy Council on a charge of conspiring against the Parliament. He left a legacy of £5 a year to the poor of the parish of All Saints and was buried in that church.

beneath a stone whose inscription was erased entirely. "He deserves a better monument" (Bourne). He was governor of the company until 1645 and of the Hostmen's company in 1642.

RALPH GRAY, Esq. 9th Oct. 1646.

Barry silver and azure on a bend gules a bezant.

Son of James Gray, draper, of Newcastle upon Tyne, and his wife Elizabeth Bewick, descended from a younger branch of the Grays of Horton in Glendale. Indentured to Cuthbert Bewick, boothman, 30 Dec. 1605. Married Elizabeth, daughter of William Hall, alderman of the town. He was sheriff in 1628. Governor of the Hostmen's company 1646-1652. Buried in St. Nicholas under a stone: "Ralph Grey, merchant adventurer, sometime sheriff of this town, May 30th 1666; aged 82."

CHRS. NICHOLSON, Esq. 9th Oct. 1648.

Silver on a pale sable three martlets gold.

Son of Allan Nicholson of Hawkshead, Lancashire, gentleman; indentured to his uncle, Edwin Nicholson, boothman, 1 May 1619; married Jane; daughter of John Butler, merchant, of Newcastle upon Tyne. He was an alderman of the town and sheriff in 1645. Died 29 Sept. 1670, aged 68, and buried in St. Nicholas'.

THOS. DAVISON, Esq. 9th Oct. 1670.

Gold a fess wavy between six cinquefoils gules.

Son of Thomas Davison of Newcastle, skinner and glover, indentured to John Cock, boothman, 8 March 1620. Alderman of the town and mayor in 1669. By will dated 25 Nov. 1675 he left lands in the Leazes to the value of ten guineas to the Merchants' company and legacies to the poor of all the parishes in the town. He died Dec. 1676.

ROBT. ELLISON, Esq. 20th Dec. 1676.

Gules a chevron silver between three eagles' heads rased gold.

Son of Cuthbert Ellison, merchant, and his wife Jane, daughter of Christopher Ile, he was admitted to the Merchants' company by patrimony in 1634; married Elizabeth; daughter of Cuthbert Grey of Backworth. M.P. for the town in the Long Parliament and again in 1660. Died 12 June 1677 and buried in St. Nicholas', where his much worn stone yet remains in the middle aisle of the nave.

TIMOTHY DAVISON, Esq. 31st Jan. 1677.

Gold a fess wavy between six cinquefoils gules.

He was the son of Thomas Davison, governor in 1670; admitted by patrimony 13 Jan. 1663; an alderman of the town; sheriff in 1666, mayor in 1673. Deputy-governor of the Eastland company 26 March 1677. Died 20 Dec. 1696 aged 55, buried in St. Nicholas' with his wife Elizabeth, who had died in 1694.

NICHOLAS FENWICK, Esq. 9th Oct. 1696.

Per fess gules and silver six martlets countercoloured.

Son of Robert Fenwick of Brenkley, Northumberland, gentleman, indentured to Ralph Heron, boothman, 20 May 1648, and admitted 4 June 1658. He was sheriff of the town in 1678 and mayor in 1682 and 1697. He died in 1707. The shield should be blazoned and drawn *silver a chief gules and six martlets countercoloured*.

NICHAS RIDLEY, Esq. 9th Oct. 1704.

Gules on a chevron between three falcons silver, belled gold, three roundels sable.

Second son of John Ridley of Hardriding and his wife Anne, daughter of Ralph Featherstonhaugh of Stanhope Hall, was aged 19 at the herald's visitation of 1666. Indentured to Robert Fenwick, mercer, 8 Aug. 1661, admitted 2 Nov. 1671 and to Eastland company 17 Feb. 1670. An alderman of the town, sheriff in 1682, mayor in 1706. Died 22 Jan. 1710 and buried in the choir of St. Nicholas' beside his wife Martha. Styled of Newcastle upon Tyne and Heaton.

ROBT. FENWICK, Esq. 8th Feb. 1710.

Per fess gules and silver six martlets countercoloured.

Little has been found as to this man. He was an alderman of the town and mayor in 1708, governor of the Hostmen's company in 1709; and in 1711 left a legacy of £4 to the poor of All Saints parish.

SIR M. W. RIDLEY, Bart. 9th Oct. 1813.

Quarterly I and IV gules on a chevron between three falcons silver three roundels sable—Ridley, II and III silver three cocks' heads rased sable combed and wattled gules—White.

Son of Sir Matthew White Ridley, second baronet, born 18 April 1778, admitted to company by patrimony, indentured 12 July 1800, admitted 16 Nov. 1808. M.P. for Newcastle 1812-1830; died 1836.

MATTHEW WHITE, Esq. 26th March 1712.

Silver three cocks' heads rased sable combed and wattled gules.

Son of Miles White of Hawthorn, Durham, indentured to Nicholas Fenwick, boothman, 1 Feb. 1668, admitted 21 March 1678; alderman of the town, sheriff in 1688, mayor 1691 and 1703, governor of the Hostmen's company 1713-16. Married Jane, daughter of Nicholas Fenwick; died 10 Oct. 1716 and buried in the church of All Saints.

RICHARD RIDLEY, Esq. 9th Oct. 1716.

Gules on a chevron between three falcons silver three roundels sable.

Son of Nicholas Ridley (above) and of his wife Martha March. Admitted to company by patrimony 27 Aug. 1707. Mayor of the town 1713 and 1732, governor of the Hostmen's company 1716. Married Mary, daughter of Matthew White of Newcastle, at Stannington 18 Nov. 1707, died 2 Nov. 1739, buried in St. Nicholas's.

MATTHEW RIDLEY, Esq. 14th Nov. 1739.

Gules on a chevron between three falcons silver three roundels sable.

Son of the above Richard, admitted to the company by patrimony 15 Oct. 1731, elected governor after his father's death, 14 Nov. 1739, alderman of the town and mayor 1733, 1751, 1759. M.P. for the town in five parliaments between 1747-1774. Married Elizabeth, heiress of her brother Sir Matthew White of Blagdon, at Stannington 18 Nov. 1742; died at Heaton 8 April 1778 aged 66. Large marble monument set up to his memory in 1779 in St. Nicholas now stands at west end of nave.

SR M. W. RIDLEY, Bart. 20th Aug. 1778.

Ridley as before quartering White as before, on an escucheon in pretence the red hand of Ulster.

Son of the above Matthew Ridley, born in Newcastle 28 Oct. 1745, succeeded to baronetry 1763, married Sarah, daughter and heiress of Benjamin Colborne 12 July 1777, admitted to company by patrimony 19 Dec. 1766, elected governor upon his father's death, mayor of the town 1774, 1782 and 1791; M.P. for Morpeth 1768 and for Newcastle in parliaments from 1774 to 1812. Died 16 April 1813.

SR M. W. RIDLEY, Bart. 15th July, 1836.

Ridley as before quartering White as before; red hand of Ulster in pretence.

Son of third baronet (see above, p. 9), born 9 Sept. 1807, married Cecilia Parke 21 Sept. 1841, admitted to the company by patrimony 9 Oct. 1830, died 25 Sept. 1877. Succeeded his father as governor.

VISCOUNT RIDLEY (I). 9th Oct. 1877.

Ridley as before, shield ensigned with a viscount's coronet with mantled helm above, crest a red bull passant; supporters two bulls gules collared gold three pierced molets silver on shoulder of each. Constans fedei [*sic*].

Son of Sir M. W. Ridley, fourth baronet, succeeded as fifth baronet 1877, admitted to company by patrimony 9 Oct. 1867; married Hon. Mary Marjoribanks 10 Dec. 1873; M.P. North Northumberland 1868-1885; Lancashire 1886-1901. Home Secretary 1895-1900; created Viscount 19 Dec. 1900; died 14 Feb. 1916.

SECOND ROW.

CHARLES LORAINÉ BELL, Esq. 9th Oct. 1905.

Sable a fess erminois in chief an escallop between two bells and in base a bell between two escallops all silver.

Son of John Bell of Woosington and his wife Isabel Lorainé; born 3 July 1836; admitted to the company by patrimony 9 Oct. 1889; sheriff of Northumberland; died 13 Nov. 1921.

RALPH HENRY CARR-ELLISON. 9th Mar. 1922.

Quarterly I and IV gules a chevron gold between three eagles' heads rased silver—Ellison; II and III gules on a chevron silver three molets sable, a border engrailed silver—Carr.

Son of John Ralph Carr-Ellison of Hebburn and Dunston Hill, Durham, and Hedgeley, Northumberland; born 22 Sept. 1863; admitted to the company by patrimony 10 Aug. 1897.

GEORGE CHAMBERS POLLARD. 1923.

Vert a boar passant silver.

Son of George Pollard, admitted by patrimony 19 April 1899.

VISCOUNT RIDLEY (III). 9th Oct. 1929.

Arms as before.

Third Viscount Ridley, succeeded 1916, married Ursula, daughter of Sir Edward Lutyens, admitted by patrimony.

THE MEMORIAL ESCUCHEONS.

In the seventeenth century the Merchants' company, following the prevailing fashion, attached much importance to the arms belonging to, or at least used by, their members. On 9 Feb. 1642/43 it was "motioned that every brother of this Company bee sumoned to give in a note of the armes that he hath to Mr. Timothy Davison."³ The company was also jealous of the use of its own arms by individual members, as on 26 June 1651 members were ordered not to impale the arms of the company with their own upon funereal hatchments.⁴ The eight escucheons which now hang upon the plaster panels of the walls above the oak panelling are those which were by order of the company removed from the Old Hall in 1831,⁵ and after being cleaned were hung in their present places. They range in date from 1642 to 1760, but the earliest, William and Henry Warmouth, were not set up until as late as 1674; on 15th July of that year it was considered "expedient that two escucheons should be provided at the Company's charge with the Warmouths' armes and hung up in the Court for a memoriall of soe worthy benefactors."⁶ The

³ SS no. 93, p. 136.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 75.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 268. The editor has unfortunately confused these "memorial escucheons" with the arms of the governors upon the oak panels beneath them.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 218. The provision of these was carried out economically by using the panels of earlier "worthy benefactors" and repainting them with new achievements of arms.

only other mention of them in the books of the company is on 5th Feb. 1676/77, when the wardens were ordered to have the escucheon of alderman Davison "drawne at the Company's charge and placed in the Merchants' Court."⁷ These memorial escucheons of arms are all of the same general style as the two illustrated on plate II. The arms are blazoned, in their proper colours, upon oval shields on the top of which visored helms, with wreaths around and crests above them, are placed. The achievements are all surrounded by flamboyant mantling flowing out at the sides and covering the whole field of the panel. Beneath, upon smaller panels, the name and benefactions of the man commemorated are recorded. (Two on plate II.)

The materials and workmanship of these armorial achievements are thus described by Mr. L. C. Evetts, who, as said above, has recently cleaned, repaired and where necessary repainted them :

"The proportion and measurements of the panels vary somewhat, but the average size, including the frame, is approximately 4 ft. high and 2 ft. 9 in. wide. Well-seasoned quartered oak was used for the ground of the panels, though inspection of the back of the one bearing the arms of the Merchant Adventurers shows the unplanned grain of pine. This panel, which is in an excellent state of preservation, is dated 1789, and is the most recent of the nine. The pieces of wood of which this panel is made are arranged horizontally, the other panels have their two or three pieces jointed vertically. For the most part the joints of the panels have not opened to any perceptible degree. In fact, it is exceedingly difficult to trace the joints where the grain of the wood happens to be straight. The moulding for the frames was made of several pieces of pine—rather in the manner of seventeenth and eighteenth-century door architraves. This was the only reasonable method of making a moulding of deep and intricate section, each member of which had to be worked by hand. The frames are roughly 6 in. in width, and are all very similar in design. There is evidence on several of the older panels of painting beneath that recently cleaned. Wherever this older painting is visible it is similar in character, though not in position, to the painting on the surface. Thus, near the mantling,

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 219.

traces of other mantling can be seen, while letters appear beneath the present inscriptions.

! The painting of the panels is consistent with the technique of the heraldic painter of the time, and resembles closely that used by the painter and decorator of to-day. Most of the painting was done in a direct manner, that is, all gradations of colour and tone were made by merging the paint whilst wet. The only exception to this method applies to the gold portions, where glazes were used over the gold leaf.

"On all the panels white paint was used as a substitute for silver. Silver leaf remains untarnished for such a short duration of time that its use is confined to works of rather ephemeral nature. To-day aluminium leaf is used wherever silver leaf might have been used years ago."

ON NORTH WALL.

"John Rumney Esqr. Dept. this life ye 3rd day of Feby. 1694, & by his last will gave to ye Fellowship of Merchants in Newcastle one Hundred pound to be lent to a younger trading Brother, for ye term of 3 years without intrest, upon reasonable security for ye repayment thereof, successively for ever."

Arms: silver on a chevron party azure and gules three roses gold; crest, on a wreath above a helm mantled silver and gules a lion standing, guardant gules.

He was the son of John Rumney of Penrith, Cumberland, yeoman, indentured 4 April 1631 to William Boone,⁸ boothman, and admitted to the Eastland company⁹ 25 Nov. 1641. The arms blazoned are those of the Worcestershire family with the field changed from gold to silver. By his will he left, in addition to the above, legacies to the poor of the parishes of St. Nicholas, St. Andrew, St. John and All Hallows as well as to Jesus Hospital. He was sheriff of the town in 1654 and 1683 and was buried in the choir of St. Nicholas' under a stone inscribed "The Burial Place of John Rumney, Merchant."

⁸ SS no. 101, p. 250.

⁹ Incorporated *temp.* Elizabeth; charter confirmed by Charles I and Charles II. Arms: *gold on the sea in base a ship of three masts ppr. sails and ensigns silver charged with a cross gules on a chief gules a leopard gold.* Crest, an *alocamelus*, supporters two bears. Motto, DESPAIR NOT.

“ Thomas Davison of Ferryhill, Esqr. in ye County of Durham, on the 19th Augt. 1755 gave to this Company £500, & directed that the Interest When & as often as the same Amounted to £50 should be paid to any son or apprentice of a Merchant to enable him to set up & Follow the trade of a Merchant.”

Arms: *gold a fess wavy between six cinquefoils gules; crest, out of a naval crown above a helm mantled silver and gules a dove rising silver holding in its beak a wheat stalk ppr.*¹⁰

He was the third son of Timothy Davison (see below, p. 18) and of his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Blackett, and grandson of Thomas Davison¹¹ (see below, p. 17). He was born in 1675 and died 5 March 1760 leaving no children. He was buried in the church of Merrington where his stone yet remains.¹² He was not a member of the Merchants' company.

ON EAST WALL.

“ Joseph Atkinson Esqr. Alderman & twice Mayor of this Town Merchant Adventurer and Boothman Deptd. this life the 13th March 1712 & by his last Will and Testament did give to ye Fellowship of Merchant Adventrs. of this Town one Hundred Pound for ever to a Freeman's son or Brother of this Company 5 Years gratis upon good Security.”

Arms: *azure a cross between four lions rampant gold; crest, upon a wreath above a helm mantled silver and gules, a dove rising silver.*

These arms are those of a Gloucestershire family of the name. He was the son of Cuthbert Atkinson of Newcastle, master mariner, apprenticed to Matthew Jeffreyson, boothman, 1 Nov. 1672 and was admitted to the Eastland company 20 July 1682.¹³ Besides the above he left £50 to the poor of St. Nicholas'. He was sheriff of the town in 1691 and mayor in the years 1694 and 1707.¹⁴

¹⁰ Arms granted to Sir Alexander Davison in 1631 by Segar.

¹¹ SD II, 227.

¹² SD III, 282.

¹³ SS no. 101, p. 300.

¹⁴ Brand N/C II, 501, 501 and 507.

“ Henry Warmouth Esqr. Alderman & some time Mayor of this Town & a member of the Company of Merchant Advenr. by his last will & testament dated ye 8th April 1654, gave to ye Common Council one Hundred Pounds to be lent by them to a Brother of ye aforesaid society 3 years gratis successively for ever.”¹⁵

Arms: erminois on a bend azure between two lions rampant azure three molets gold; crest, on a wreath above a helm mantled silver and gules a demi lion rampant erminois holing a molet azure.

These arms are first recorded at the heraldic visitation made by Richard St. George, Norroy King of Arms in 1615.¹⁶ The above Henry, son of William Warmouth (see below, p. 17), was then 21 years of age. His mother was Judith, daughter of William Whittingham, dean of Durham. Neither his enrolment as an apprentice nor his admission to the company is recorded in the books of the company.¹⁷ He was sheriff of the town in the year 1631, the year his father was mayor, and was himself mayor in the year 1644, succeeding Sir John Marley after the town was taken by the Scots. He was appointed deputy lieutenant for the town in October 1644 by both houses of parliament, shortly before its surrender on 19 October. He was elected member of parliament after Sir Henry Anderson was disabled from sitting in 1643, but his election was voided 23 July 1647.¹⁸

“ Mr. William Carr Merchant Advenr. deceast April ye 14th 1660, at his death gave to the Company of Mercht. Advenr. 2 hundred pound to be lent to 4 Brethren of this Company five years gratis & so successively for ever which was disposed of ye first of August 1660.”

Arms: silver on a bend sable between three Cornish choughs three 'pards heads rased gold; crest, upon a wreath above a helm mantled silver and gules a lion's head rased gold. (plate II.)

¹⁵ On 15 July 1674 “ the governour . . . judged it expedient that two escutchions should be provided at the Company's charge with the Warmouth's armes and hung up in Court for a memorial of soe worthy benefactors.” (SS 93, p. 218.)

¹⁶ *Northumberland Visitation Pedigrees*, ed. Foster, p. 121.

¹⁷ See SS no. 101.

¹⁸ Brand, vol. II, pp. 454, 462, 465, etc.

This shield is recorded in the heraldic visitation made by William Harvey, Norroy King of Arms in 1552, in that made by Lawrence Dalton in 1558¹⁹ and in that of 1666 made by Sir William Dugdale. In the earliest it is borne quarterly with the arms of Wycliffe, Bowes and Baxter and impaled with Trollope, in the second it quarters Wycliffe and in the last it is given without any quarterings. He was the son of Ralph Carr, merchant, and his wife Isabel, daughter of Ralph Jenison.²⁰ He was a member of the Mercers' company, married Jane, daughter of Ralph Cock, and was buried in St. Nicholas' church.²¹

“ William Warmouth Esqr. Alderman of Newcastle upon Tyne & thrice Maior thereof Governor of ye Company of Mercht. Advenrs. gave to ye Common Councel £100, to be lent by them to a Brother of ye foresaid Society for 3 years gratis Successively for ever, he dyed ye 22ed of July 1642.”

Arms: the same as Henry, p. 16, plate II.

He was the son of Robert Warmouth of whom nothing is known. His admission to the company is not recorded. His wife was Judith, daughter of dean Whittingham of Durham, and Henry (see above, p. 16) was his eldest son.²² He was governor of the Merchants' company in the years 1603, 1630 and 1639; sheriff of the town in 1598 and mayor in 1603, 1614 and 1631.²³ (plate II.)

ON WEST WALL.

“ Thomas Davison Esqr Alderman of Newcastle upon Tyne, & sometime Maior, Governor of ye Company of Mercht. Advenrs. by his last will dated ye 25th of Novemr. 1675, gave to ye Company for ever, his Ridges of Land in ye Castle Fields now let by Lease at £10 = 10s. pr. annm. Conditionally to pay to ye Church wardns. of 3 Churches £3 pr. annm. ye rest to be Distributed in Decemr. amongst ye poor Brethren & Sisters of ye said Company of Merchts. yearly for ever.”

Arms: as no. 2, plate III.

¹⁹ SS no. 122, pp. 74 and 104.

²⁰ Ed. Foster, p. 28.

²¹ Brand II, 281.

²² *Visitation*, ed. Foster, p. 121.

²³ Brand II, pp. 240, 449, 450-51-54.

Merchant and alderman of Newcastle, governor of the Merchants' company 1670-1675, mayor of the town in 1669,²⁴ died aged 71 and buried in St. Nicholas' church 1 Dec. 1676.²⁵

" Timothy Davison Esqr. Alderman of Newcastle upon Tyné & sometime Maior, Governor of ye Company of Merch. Advenrs. by his last will dated ye 7th of Feb. 1694, gave to ye Company £300 upon Condition they pay ye poor of this Comny. £12 & to ye wardns. of ye 4 Churches 6 pouds. pr. Annm. to be Distributed in Decembr. yearly for ever."

Arms : as Thomas on p. 15.

He was the second son of the above Thomas Davison; admitted by patrimony as boothman to the Eastland company 13 Jan. 1663, he was elected deputy-governor of this company 26 March 1677 after the death of his father.²⁶ He was governor of the Merchants' company in 1678, sheriff of the town 1666 and mayor in 1673.²⁷ His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Blackett; his third son was Thomas Davison (see above, p. 15). He died 20 Dec. 1696 aged 55; his wife died 10 Sept. 1694;²⁸ they were buried in the nave of St. Nicholas' church. For inscription and arms upon the stone see Richardson's *Armorial Bearings, etc., in St. Nicholas*, p. 57.

ON NORTH WALL.

Arms of Merchant Adventurers painted in 1789: *Barry wavy silver and azure, a chief quarterly gules and gold a lion passant guardant gold on I and IV; two roses gules on II and III. Crest, a demi pegasus rampant, wings elevated silver each charged with two roses gules, holding a pennon of two tails charged with the cross of St. George. Supporters, two pegasi silver wings elevated and charged as on crest. Motto—Deus sit noster amicus. (Carved example on frontispiece.)*

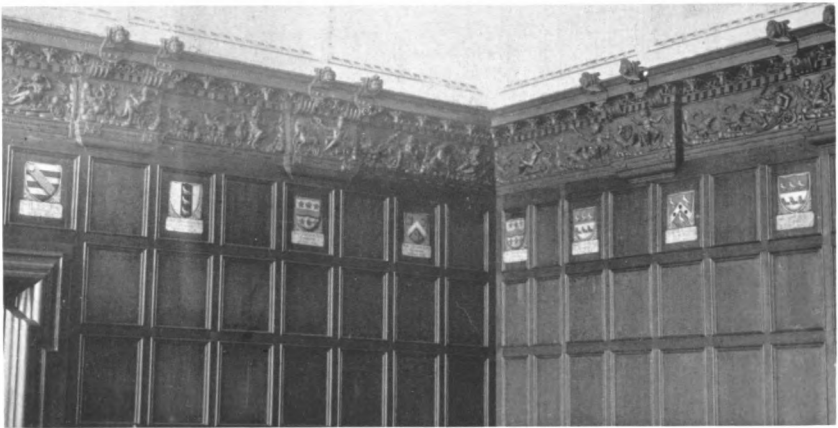
²⁴ Brand II, 240 and 492.

²⁵ Pedigree SD II, 227.

²⁶ SS no. 101, p. 289.

²⁷ Brand II, pp. 240 and 492-93.

²⁸ SD II, 227.



PANELLING WITH ARMS OF GOVERNORS, MERCHANTS' COURT.



MEMORIAL ESCUCHEONS IN THE MERCHANTS' COURT.

